

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OIC-02 SAM-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06

FEA-01 OES-03 ACDA-05 XMB-02 IO-10 /115 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 908

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 6440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, EEC

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 15, 1975: PORTUGAL

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 6343

B) EC BRUSSELS 6426

1. DURING THE RESTRICTED PORTION OF THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 15, THE NINE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EC FINANCIAL AID FOR PORTUGAL. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, LITTLE IF ANY PROGRESS WAS MADE, HOWEVER. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, REPORTEDLY REFLECTING A DECISION TAKEN "AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT", SAID THAT FRANCE CONTINUES TO BE OPPOSED TO ANY EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL AT THIS TIME. SAUVAGNARGUES POINTED TO THE "DETERIORATING" POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL NOTING ESPECIALLY THE DEPARTURE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF SOARES WHOM HE TERMED "PORTUGAL'S ONLY CONTACT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE WEST."

2. OTHER DELEGATIONS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, BUT SAID, WITH SOME TREPIDATION, THEY WERE NEVERTHELESS WILLING TO PROCEED WITH COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AT THIS TIME. THE FRENCH REMAINED ADAMANT, HOWEVER, IN OBJECTING TO EITHER DIRECT EC FINANCIAL AID OR APPLYING AN EC LABEL TO AID GIVEN DIRECTLY BY MEMBER STATES.

3. THE SUBJECT HAS BEEN REMANDED TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION ON JULY 17, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY THINK THE FRENCH ARE UNLIKELY TO MODIFY THEIR PRESENT ATTITUDE. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, THERE IS SOME QUESTION WHETHER THE PORTUGUESE WOULD STILL BE INTERESTED IN COMING TO BRUSSELS FOR THE PLANNED MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MEETING WITH THE EC ON JULY 22 SHOULD SUCH A MEETING TAKE PLACE, AND SHOULD THE FRENCH REMAIN ADAMANT, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL ONLY BE IN A POSITION TO ASK THE PORTUGUESE ONCE AGAIN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON SPECIFIC AID PROJECTS FOR COMMUNITY CONSIDERATION.
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Message Attributes

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